

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, August 7, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, August 7, 1842.

. . . . I have duly noted your remarks with regard to my friend Mr. Kendall and deplore greatly his declining health, I still hope he may regain his health and long live for his family, and the public good. But should he be taken from us, then my dear friend, I wish you to take my papers into your possession, and dispose of them as your judgment may suggest. I will thus provide in a schedule to my will, but I hope providence may restore his health and long prolong his life. There are many other papers that may be necessary for Mr. Kendall to have, yet here amongst my papers. Mr. Kendall has promised to come out this fall and select them as I am unable to do so. Please present my kind regards to him. 1

1 The fate of the Jackson MSS. is so interesting to the student that the editor has included in this collection the two letters that follow, the first from Francis P. Blair to Andrew Jackson, jr., which is erroneously dated in 1842; the second from Andrew Jackson, jr., to Amos Kendall.

I hope the senate may reject, that odious treaty with England. 2 from your ideas of its contents, as you are informed, it is not only disgraceful, but humiliating to our national character and humbling us in dust and ashes. I had determined to accept the award made by the King of Holland regardless of the remonstrance of Judge Preble, 3 but my whole cabinet remonstrated against my decision recommending me, as the senate was in session, to lay it before them. I yielded to this recommendation, but sincerely have I

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regretted it since. for this my whole Cabinet will vouch. Judge Tazwell being then chairman of the Committee on our foreign relations I was sure he would recommend adopting the Award. But it has passed away, and our country is now to be humbled by a disgraceful treaty. Had the river St. Johns been made the boundery from its source to its mouth, there would have been some resiprosity in it. I hope the senate may reject it. . . .

2 Refers to the Webster-Ashburton treaty, which was accepted by the Senate and by Great Britain. It was less favorable to the United States by 893 square miles than the award of the King of the Netherlands, 1831.

3 William P. Preble of Maine, minister to the Netherlands 1829–1831.